

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/18261

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C23C 22/00

US CL : 148/246

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 148/246, 259; 106/14.13; 252/383

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,547,595 A (HACIAS) 20 August 1996 (20.08.1996); column 3, lines 1-18, column 4, lines 9-13, column 5, lines 47-65, column 6, lines 51-58, column 6, line 64 to column 7, line 8, column 8, lines 2-9, column 9, line 42 to column 10, line 23.	1-4, 7-8 and 13-15
Y		5
Y	US 3,645,797 A (LORIN) 29 February 1972 (29.02.1972), abstract, column 1, lines 56-64, column 2, lines 15-20, 34 and 51-75, column 3, lines 2-15, 44-49 and 61-70, column SU 681092 A (OLEINIK et al) 25 August 1979 (25.08.1979); abstract.	1-5, 8 and 10-15
Y		1-4, 10-11 and 13-14
Y	SU 874751 B (KOLESNICHE et al) 23 October 1981 (23.10.1981), abstract.	1-5, 10-11 and 13-14
A	US 5,368,757 A (KING) 29 November 1994 (29.11.1994), entire document.	1-15

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 August 2001 (15.08.2001)

Date of mailing of the international search report

30 AUG 2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer

Andrew L Oltmans

Jean Proctor
Paralegal Specialist

Telephone No. 703-308-0661